

Astrobiology in a K-14 Diverse Multi-Cultural Society

Barbara A. Laval

Center for Astrobiology

University of California, Los Angeles

Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics, 3845 Slichter Hall, Los Angeles, California 90095-1567

United States of America

blaval@ucla.edu

NASA's Mission – “to understand and protect our home planet, to explore the universe and search for life, to inspire the next generation of explorers ... as only NASA can”.

The UCLA Center for Astrobiology is committed to providing elementary and secondary education and information to the extensive Los Angeles area schools and communities, with emphasis on the diversity that exists in this community. Our goal is to reach out to students, educators, and researchers, underrepresented and underserved communities, learning-disabled and physically challenged individuals and the general public.

UCLA's Education and Public outreach program is in the process of “educating and inspiring the next generation of explorers.” We have embarked on a collaborative effort visiting K-14 schools, arranging class visits to the UCLA Center for Astrobiology and introducing a public lecture series with the NAI JPL/VPL team.

The UCLA Center for Astrobiology has enlisted the support of faculty, researchers, students, staff, the UCLA Astrobiology Society, NASA Astrobiology Institute staff, and past and present NAI team members. We continue to engage and invite the education community, students, and the public to participate in our scientific experience. Our efforts allow the UCLA Center for Astrobiology to fully realize its mission and dream, to understand, explore, and inspire people from all walks of life.

